

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A secondary seal element including a base body made of a synthetic material, said base body comprising a base portion and a seal portion, said base and seal portions including coaxially aligned, axially adjacent through bores for the passage of a component, and an annular disc element accommodated in said base portion and including a through bore coaxially aligned with the through bores in the base and seal portions, said annular disc element being formed of a material which differs from that of the base body, wherein in the unloaded state, the through bore of said annular disc element has a radial dimension  $d$  which is greater than that  $D_2$  of the through bore of said seal portion and smaller than that  $D_1$  of said base portion of the base body, and in that the material of wherein the annular disc element comprises is formed of a carbon material, and wherein the annular disc element is disposed in a recess in an end face of the base portion and projects axially beyond the end face and further in such manner so that a pressurized fluid can exert a radially inward force on at least a portion of a radially outermost surface of the annular disc element when the secondary seal element is in a loaded state.

2. (canceled without prejudice)

3. (previously presented) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic material of the base body comprises PTFE.

4. (currently amended) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, wherein that the seal portion comprises a pair of radially spaced resilient web elements having opposed outwardly directed sealing surfaces.

5. (previously presented) The secondary seal element according to claim 4, further comprising means for radially expanding the web elements in a resilient manner.

6. (previously presented) The secondary seal element according to claim 1, wherein the base portion has an essentially rectangular cross section.

7. (currently amended) A mechanical face seal device comprising a pair of cooperating seal rings of which one is urged towards the other by an axial bias force and is axially moveably disposed on a sleeve, wherein for the purpose of sealing said one sealing seal ring with respect to the sleeve, a secondary sealing seal element according to claim 1 is provided disposed in a thrust ring seated on the sleeve in an axially moveable manner for transmitting said bias force, and wherein the sleeve is formed of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion which essentially corresponds to that of the carbon material of the annular disc element the secondary seal element including a base body made of a synthetic material, said base body comprising a base portion and a seal portion, said base and seal portions including coaxially aligned, axially adjacent through bores for the passage of a component, and an annular disc element accommodated in said base portion and including a through bore coaxially aligned with the

through bores in the base and seal portions, said annular disc element being formed of a material which differs from that of the base body, wherein in the unloaded state, the through bore of said annular disc element has a radial dimension  $d$  which is greater than that  $D_2$  of the through bore of said seal portion and smaller than that  $D_1$  of said base portion of the base body, wherein the annular disc element is formed of a carbon material, and wherein the annular disc element is disposed in a recess in an end face of the base portion and projects axially beyond the end face and further in such manner so that a pressurized fluid can exert a radially inward force on at least a portion of a radially outermost surface of the annular disc element when the secondary seal element is in a loaded state, and wherein the sleeve is formed of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion which essentially corresponds to that of the carbon material of the annular disc element.

8. (previously presented) The mechanical face seal device according to claim 7, wherein the sleeve is formed of tungsten carbide.